

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 12, 2005

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, Timothy Roupp), James Bogaczyk (to be sworn in January 3, 2006), Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeburg KCC Committee.

Guests: Attorney Sandra Olson, John Eckman, Larry Mitchell; Brendyn Stager, Dick Stager; Lauren Brooks, Krystal Williams; Lonny Frost.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 14, 2005 meetings were accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

Guests: Lauren Brooks and Krystal Williams are both students at North Penn High School. They were attending tonight's meeting to observe for a youth leadership assignment.

James Bogaczyk was asked to deliver a message from Mrs. Merrill Mischke, 343 North Williamson Road. The dogs that belong to the residents at 349 Wilson Lane are still running loose and defecating in neighbor's yards. A few weeks ago they were the middle of North Williamson Road backing up traffic. Chief Steffen to take care of.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present. Tonya McNamara reported no student was interested in representing NPHS this year.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$955.75.

There are two reservations to use the KCC Building in the next few weeks.

Mr. Freeberg concerned about renters leaving lights on and turning the thermostat up too high. A programmable thermostat to be looked into or one that only goes up to 72°.

Mr. Freeberg told Council about the Local Union wanting a key to building. Councilmembers feel too many keys to the building causes problems. The keys to the building will be limited.

Mr. Freeberg to meet with Brian Laverty on funding options for the KCC.

Reports:

(C) Committee Business Development: Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

V.I.B.E. Minutes for November 16, 2005 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. at the Library. Mayor Backman lit the tree. There was a nice crowd for the event. The "Light Up the Holidays" contest is opened to every resident of Blossburg who loves to decorate the outside of his or her home. The following themes are encouraged: Victorian, Modern, Whimsical and most Christmas Spirit and Best Christmas Store Front Display. Prizes will be awarded for each theme. The judging is scheduled for December 18, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

Next meeting for V.I.B.E. will be held third Wednesday in January.

(D) Mayor: Mayor Backman reported Shane Nickerson built an ice skating ring on the old Steffen property located on the North side of Main Street. After a discussion between Councilmembers, it was decided, the Borough Manager to check insurance liability coverage, check on what kind of supervision, and hours open should be posted. Council President Jerome Ogden asked the Police Department to patrol area in the mean time.

(E) Police: Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Chief Steffen attended and completed school for certification.

Many thefts and dog problems.

Chief Steffen reported Officer Chad Buttorff is working part-time in Mansfield. There is a possibility Officer Buttorff will get full-time in Mansfield. Officer Robert Scott has other jobs he is committed to. Chief Steffen looking around for a part-time officer, who has passed all of the police requirements and is certified. Chief Steffen suggested Ray Gosselin who was Chief for Elkland Borough, but is on a leave of absence from the Elkland Borough. Mr. Gosselin has all of his police requirements, is certified and has worked in the county for many years. Motion to hire Ray Gosselin as a part-time officer and use at Chief Steffen's discretion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Borough Manager and Scott Fessler went to Uniontown to pickup Mack truck.

Reports:

(H) Planning Commission:

Meeting of November 29, 2005. Reviewed Verizon cell tower plans. Planning Commission recommended approval. Submitted to Zoning Hearing Board.

Letter of resignation from Planning Commission member James J. Bogaczyk has been submitted. Due to other commitments, he must resign his position as of the end of the meeting on November 29, 2005. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Bogaczyk recommended that Council consider Glenn P. Bastian as his replacement.

James Bogaczyk reported he has talked to Mr. Bastian about the Planning Commission appointment and Mr. Bastian is willing to take the position.

Appointment to Planning Commission: James J. Bogaczyk replacement – Glenn P. Bastian; motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting of November 29, 2005. Reviewed Verizon cell tower plans. Verizon cell tower was approved with conditions. The conditions for approval are as follows: 1) The tower will not have a light on it. 2) All utilities to site will be located underground. 3) Time line for removal of tower if it becomes inactive for a period of six (6) months. 4) Access road to tower will be gated with gate location 20' off Water Street. 5) Local Borough, Police and Fire use tower for improved communication capabilities within the Borough. Verizon will install antennas free of charge, while building tower. Borough to supply antennas. No rent charge if work is done within a year.

Council recommended the Borough purchase antennas for Borough use on the new cell tower.

(I) Recreation: Only four (4) members present at last meeting. Reviewed United Fund funding. Discussed releasing some monies for the Salvation Army immediately to be used for Christmas. Other monies will be discussed at next scheduled meeting when more members are present.

(J) Fire: No report received.

Councilmembers on Fire Committee: Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski and Cheryl Bubacz. Fire department meetings are held the last Monday of the month.

(K) Television: "Hallmark" Channel 51 to be added soon.

(L) Library: New HAVC system is installed.

Librarian Shelby Kinsey is doing an outstanding job.

(M) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(N) Budget: Budget meeting scheduled for December 20, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. to meet with Gannon Associates on insurance coverage packages and quote on Worker's Compensation. President Jerome Ogden will not be able to attend the meeting. Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Thomas Bogaczyk, James Bogaczyk and George Lloyd will attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Evaluation:** The Personnel Policy was updated. Several corrections were reviewed. New sheets to be added to final Councilmembers copies.

Motion to adopt, with corrections, Borough of Blossburg Personnel & Ethics Policy was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.
2. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.
3. **Additional Railroad Property:** Tax Sale of old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough, was to be sold on September 26, 2005. Borough Solicitor contacted Tioga County Court House to review listings. The wrong property was assessed. Sale put off for one (1) year.
4. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on.
5. **Home Occupation:** Proposed Home Occupation Ordinance has been amended. Ready to advertise.
6. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Borough Solicitor presented Ordinance tonight. Needs to be advertised.
7. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** New rates to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to get with George Lloyd for more information.
8. **Ward Manufacturing Petition Requesting Zoning Change:** Borough Solicitor presented Ordinance tonight. Needs to be advertised.
9. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough to contact towers.
10. **Attorney Fee Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor presented Ordinance tonight. Needs to be advertised.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Old Occupation Privilege Tax (OPT) / New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST):**

New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax Ordinance (EMST):

The New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax Ordinance rate is \$20.00 per year for Non-Residents and Residents holding an Occupation in the Borough of Blossburg. Motion to adopt New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

All employers in Blossburg Borough to be notified of change.

2. **2006 Budget:** Motion that the proposed 2006 Tax Ordinance is adopted as advertised: Borough 5.507 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. 2006 Fuel Bids: Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$1.9840 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$1.9690 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$1.8030 per gallon
<u>Montour Oil:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$2.1050 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.0550 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$1.949 per gallon

Motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to accept Williams Oil & Propane bid; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

4. Former Borough Building Bids: Received as advertised:

One bid was received.

Brendyn Stager, 242 Main Street, Blossburg, PA, 16912 in the amount of \$1,111.11.

All documents were in order as required. Motion to accept Mr. Stager's bid for former Borough Building was made by Thomas Bogaczyk: second, Raymond Kaminski.

Roll Call: Yes – Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman
Thomas Bogaczyk

No – Cheryl Bubacz

Motion carried.

John Eckman spoke for the Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg congratulating Brendyn Stager on bidding on the former Borough Building. He felt the bids were written up with consideration for the former Borough Building. The Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg is a newly formed group, with too little time, to be able to solicit for money so the Historical Society could bid on the former Borough Building. The Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg will be on going and they will continue to seek a building to preserve the history of coal mining and related industries in the greater Blossburg area. Councilmembers commended the Coal and Iron Historical Society for their outstanding work they have accomplished in such a short time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:57 P.M. RECONVENED 8:15 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED

5. 2006 Reorganization Meeting: Reorganization meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. Regular Council meeting on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL IN WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. WITH A SMORGASBORD DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005.**

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary